

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE
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PRIORITY

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SUBJ: EVALUATION OF BLACK SHIELD MISSION BX6723,

1. CAMERA TYPE I (115A), UNIT C WAS USED ON MISSION BX6723. PROCESSING WAS ACCOMPLISHED IN THE FIELD. THE MISSION CONTAINS 1,022 TITLED FRAMES.

2. BOTH CAMERAS OPERATED SATISFACTORILY THROUGHOUT THE MISSION. DURING STRAIGHT AND LEVEL PORTIONS OF THE FLIGHT (CAMERA UNCAGED AND THE VEHICLE IS WITHIN THE CAMERA STABILIZATION LIMITS IN ROLL AND PITCH) ESTIMATED GROUND RESOLUTIONS OF APPROXIMATELY 18 INCHES (ONE BAR PLUS ONE SPACE) WERE ACHIEVED NEAR VERTICAL PORTIONS OF THE FRAMES. IN SOME INSTANCES THE IMAGERY APPEARS TO BE EQUAL TO OR BETTER THAN THE BEST FROM OPERATIONAL MISSIONS TO DATE. IN A COMPARISON OF COVERAGE EXPOSED BY THE FORWARD AND AFT CAMERAS, THE AFT FRAMES APPEAR TO BE OF SLIGHTLY BETTER QUALITY.

3. CROSS TRACK IMAGE SMEARING (IMAGE ELONGATION) ASSOCIATED WITH VEHICLE MANEUVERING AND CAMERA CAGING IS PRESENT INTERMITTENTLY

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GROUP 1
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THROUGHOUT. EXAMPLE FRAMES ARE: 408, 409, 412, 413, 416, 417, 420, 421, 472, 473, 476, 477, 480, AND 481. ON FRAMES 412 AND 413 IMAGE SMEARING, NEARLY PARALLEL WITH THE LINE OF FLIGHT, IS ALSO PRESENT. DEGRADATION IS LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 18 INCHES FROM THE START OF SCAN ON THE FORMATS AND COULD POSSIBLY BE ASSOCIATED WITH MANEUVERING ABOUT THE YAW AXIS.

4. THE ENTIRE MISSION WAS EXPOSED AT 1/190 OF A SECOND. ALL FRAMES RECEIVED MAXIMUM DEVELOPMENT. IN COMPARING GROUND AREAS EXPOSED IN THE FORWARD AND AFT CAMERA AT THE SAME TIME, THE AFT FRAMES GENERALLY HAVE HEAVIER DENSITY. THE DENSITY OF THE BASE PLUS FOG IS HIGH AND DISCOLORED (YELLOWISH CAST).

5. LONGITUDINAL MINUS DENSITY STREAKS ARE PRESENT INTERMITTENTLY THROUGHOUT THE MISSION. THEY ARE MINIMAL AND ONLY MINOR DEGRADATION IS APPARENT. THE TIME TRACKS ARE VARIABLE IN SIZE, SHAPE, AND DENSITY; ON THE DATA BLOCK EDGE OF THE FORWARD, THE TIMING MARKS ARE VERY DENSE AND 0.1 INCH LONG. EMULSION LIFTS ARE PRESENT ON APPROXIMATELY 29 FRAMES. FRAME 69 AND 72 CONTAIN MINOR EMULSION SCRATCHES.

6. OVERLAPPING OF CONSECUTIVE FWD/AFT FRAMES IS PRESENT INTERMITTENTLY THROUGHOUT THE MISSION AND RANGES BETWEEN 0.05 INCH AND 2 INCHES. THE DATA BLOCK ENCROACHES INTO THE IMAGE AREA OF EVERY OTHER FORWARD FRAME, FOR ABOUT HALF THE DATA BLOCK WIDTH.

7. PROGRAMMED V/H IS USED ON THE ENTIRE MISSION. THE INS DATA INDICATES THE CAMERA IS CAGED FOR 55 FORWARD FRAMES. THE CAGING LIGHT WAS ON FOR FOUR FRAMES WHEN THE INS TAPE INDICATED UNCAGED STATUS AND OFF FOR FOUR FRAMES WHEN CAGED STATUS WAS

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INDICATED. THE INS LONGITUDE IS PLUS TWO MINUTES AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MISSION WITH A GRADUAL DRAFT TO PLUS ONE MINUTE AT THE END OF THE MISSION. THE DATA BLOCK CLOCK CONTAINS A 46 MINUTE 21 SECOND BIAS THROUGHOUT. CORRELATION OF THE INS DATA TO FILM WAS DIFFICULT BECAUSE OF THIS BIAS.

8. CLOUDS OBSCURE 55 PERCENT OF THE MISSION. GROUND HAZE IS MINIMAL AND IN CLOUD FREE AREAS GOOD QUALITY PHOTOGRAPHY IS AVAILABLE.

9. THE ZERO PRIORITY REPRODUCTIONS AND REGULAR REPRODUCTIONS APPEAR TO BE OF EQUAL QUALITY.

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